

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/044,237

Applicant(s)

LEONARD ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

William P. Fletcher III

1762

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment and response filed 8/6/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-31 and 99.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 10 January 2002 and 06 August 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
  1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

WPF 11/4/2004  
William Phillip Fletcher III  
Patent Examiner, USPTO  
Group Art Unit 1762

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with David R. Cleveland (Reg. No. 29,524) on 11/4/2004.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for improving the uniformity of a wet coating on a substrate having a direction of motion comprising contacting and re-contacting a coating having coating caliper defects that repeat in the direction of motion, the defects including surges, depressions and voids, ranging from a complete absence of coating to an excess of as much as 200% of the average coating caliper with wetted surface portions of a sufficient number of pick-and-place devices having periods of contact with the substrate within  $\pm 1\%$  of one another so that the coating caliper defects are converted to range from 85% to 115% of the average coating caliper.

Claims 32-98 (cancelled).

Claim 99 (new): A method for improving the uniformity of a wet coating on a substrate having a direction of motion comprising contacting and re-contacting a coating having coating

caliper defects in the direction of motion, the defects including voids having a complete absence of coating or surges having an excess of as much as 200% of the average coating caliper, with wetted surface portions of a sufficient number of periodic pick-and-place devices having periods of contact with the substrate within  $\pm 1\%$  of one another so that the coating caliper defects are converted to range from 85% to 115% of the average coating caliper.

2. Claims 1-31 and 99 are allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The closest prior art was made of record in the prior Office action. Applicant's amendments and arguments filed 8/6/2004 have overcome the objections and rejections set-forth in that action. With respect to independent claims 1 and 99, as well as the claims that depend there-from, the prior art neither teaches nor suggests coating caliper defects that repeat in the direction of motion. With respect to independent claims 17 and 28-31, as well as the claims that depend therefrom, the prior art neither teaches nor reasonably suggests the claimed method in which cross-web stripes are contacted and re-contacted. Further, with respect to claims 28-31, the prior art neither teaches nor reasonably suggests the claimed dimensionless roll sizes and dimensionless minimum calipers. Lastly, with respect to independent claim 26, the prior art neither teaches nor reasonably suggests the claimed method in which the period of the caliper variation is changed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

***Drawings***

4. Replacement drawings for Figs. 10a-d, 14a-n, and 19a-23 were received on 8/6/2004. These drawings are acceptable.

***Conclusion***

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William P. Fletcher III whose telephone number is (571) 272-1419. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 9 AM to 5 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Shrive P. Beck can be reached on (571) 272-1415. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

*WPF 11/4/2004*

William P. Fletcher III  
Examiner  
Art Unit 1762



**SHRIVE P. BECK**  
**SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER**  
**TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1700**